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CITY OF BROCKTON, MA RECEIVES US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BRIGHTFIELDS GRANT

The City Obtains $30,000 Award to Develop Plan to Redevelop Brownfields Using Solar Energy Technologies

Brockton, Massachusetts—November 19, 2001— The City of Brockton announced today that it is receiving a $30,000 Federal Department of Energy grant to develop a "Brightfields" plan for redeveloping brownfields using solar energy technologies. Brockton will spend the awarded $30,000 promoting brownfields clean-up, economic development, and renewable energy markets by attracting a solar manufacturer to a brownfield site. The City of Brockton, Office of the City Planner is the local partner organization.

The Brightfields project team will conduct feasibility studies on installing solar panels on a new desalination plant, a new baseball stadium, Brockton high school, a brownfield near the wastewater treatment plant, and a proposed "sports bubble". The team will investigate municipal and private demand for solar power and use the data to attract a solar manufacturer to a Brockton brownfield. The solar technology proposed is photovoltaic. Sunlight can be converted directly into electricity by using photovoltaic (PV) cells. PV cells, which are made with semiconductor materials, make electricity with no moving parts, noise, or pollution.

"The City of Brockton will benefit tremendously from this award," said Mayor John T. Yunits, Jr. "Not only will we be able to reuse contaminated sites, but we will also generate green power and get new, high tech jobs in the City." Added Brockton City Planner Nancy Stack Savoie, "This project builds on other brownfields and urban greening projects already underway. We are thrilled to obtain this funding."

Brightfields^{CM} grants have recently been awarded to three U.S. communities. "This 'Brightfields' project is an example of President Bush's vision of partnerships designed to promote clean power generation at brownfield sites," said David Garman, the U.S. Department of Energy's Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "The Brockton Brightfields project will stimulate economic

development, protect the environment, and enhance energy security." The funding for these grants was provided by the DOE Office of Power Technologies / Office of Solar Energy through the Fiscal Year 2001 State Energy Programs Special Projects solicitation. These grants will go towards the implementation of Brightfields[CM] activities in Hanford, Washington; Brockton, Massachusetts; and Atlantic City, New Jersey. Brockton's grant is a result of an application submitted on the City's behalf by the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources.

A Brightfield[CM] is an abandoned or contaminated property ("brownfield") that is redeveloped through the incorporation of solar energy. The Department of Energy's revolutionary Brightfields[CM] concept addresses economic development, environmental cleanup, and air quality challenges by bringing pollution-free solar energy and high-tech solar manufacturing jobs to brownfield sites.

Brightfields[CM] is designed to support a broad array of solar projects. Some examples of current projects include the placement of a solar energy manufacturing plant, building-integrated solar energy systems, and solar electric systems on brownfield sites.

David O'Connor, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources, believes the City of Brockton will play an important leadership role in increasing the use of renewable energy in the state and expanding the market for photovoltaics. "Brockton's project would lead to development of, by far, the largest photovoltaic generation system in Massachusetts. If Brockton can locate a PV manufacturer in the City that produces a significant volume, it will help to decrease the cost of photovoltaics for other potential users." PV systems are still relatively expensive when compared to conventional power sources. Even small purchases can play an important role in expanding the market for PV. As the market increases, the price of PV will continue to come down.

Brockton was recently awarded a grant from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust to investigate placement of photovoltaic arrays on two brownfields. The DOE grant complements the state funding by allowing Brockton to increase its demand for solar panels, which enhances the economic viability of locating a manufacturing plant in the City.

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